

<b>week 25:</b>	<b>explore the mexican desert (dry)</b>
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***It is hot and dry in the Mexican Desert. But wow, what a wonderful place to explore! With a little imagination we can have loads of fun!***

### **Games:**

1. **Relay:** Tunnel Ball

***There are lots of tunnels in the desert.***

You will need chairs, a blanket to cover them and a tennis ball per Six. Arrange the chairs in a line and cover with a blanket. In relay style, each Cub runs the ball through the tunnel and runs to collect it at the other end, taking it back to the next Cub in line. Repeat until all Cubs have had their turn.

2. **Circle:** Hot Potato (Hot Stone)

***Careful what you pick up ....the sun makes everything very hot!***

The Cubs form a circle with 'IT' in the centre. One of the Cubs has the stone to pass around. This can be a beanbag. When 'IT' calls "pass the stone", the Cub with the stone starts passing it around the circle. When 'IT' calls "Hot Stone", whoever has the stone at that moment becomes "IT".

3. **Team:** Can Skittles (Cactus Skittles)

***See how many cacti you can knock down ...***

Arrange 10 empty cans into a pyramid and give the Cubs 3 bean bags. They must turns to see how many "cacti" they can knock down with their three missiles.

4. **Active:** Behind the sand dune

***Sometimes the sand dunes are so high, it is difficult to see what is going on behind them.***

Split the Pack into two teams. Suspend a rope across the middle of the hall and hang a ground sheet or similar over it so that the two teams cannot see each other. Each Cub chooses a place to stand which they cannot move from. The bean bag is lobbed (not thrown – if too heavy, then choose something lighter) over the sheet and if it hits a Cub then that Cub has to sit down on their spot. The team that wins is the one whose members of the opposing team have all been hit.

5. **Circle:** From sea to sea

***In the desert, water is very scarce – be careful you don't spill!***

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***Deserts are hot and dry and it's not easy to survive there.***

### **Sense Training:**

1. **Kims Game:** Desert Rats (sight)

#### ***Water is scarce in the desert ....***

Hide a bottle of water somewhere in the designated area of the game. Give each Cub a mug. The first Cub to bring the Scouter a mug of water is the winner (no taps to be used!)

2. **Kims Game:** Know Your Rock (feel)

Each Cub finds a stone or rock. They must remember where it came from so that it can be returned. They all sit in a circle with their eyes shut, holding their stone/rock. Tell them to get to know their stone/rock by its feel, texture, smell etc. After a few minutes collect all the stones/rocks and mix them up and then redistribute them. The stones/rocks are passed around the circle and each Cub must try and identify their own rock with their eyes still shut. To help prevent any disagreements, stick a small piece of tape to the rock with the owner's initials.

### **Yarn:**

#### **The Story of the Mexican Flag**



700 years ago the Aztecs lived in the arid desert, in what is now northern Mexico. They were looking for the ideal place to build their new city. According to legend, the Aztec god *Huizilopochtli* (we-see-low-PōCH-tee) told the Aztecs to build their city where they find an eagle, carrying a snake, land on a *nopal* (cactus).

As was predicted in the ancient prophecy, they spotted the eagle with a snake in its beak on a cactus. The cactus was located in a huge swampy area. The Aztecs built their city, *Tenochtitlán*, on a small swampy island in Lake Texcoco - and this eventually became Mexico City. It is this scene that is displayed in the center of the Mexican flag, as the Mexican Coat of Arms.

The main design of the flag has been used since 1821. At this time, the colors represented the following:

<b>Green:</b>	<b>independence</b>
<b>White:</b>	<b>religion</b>
<b>Red:</b>	<b>union between Europe and the Americas</b>

President Benito Juarez (president of Mexico from 1858 to 1872) separated church and state, and the meanings of the colors were changed to represent:

<b>Green:</b>	<b>hope</b>
<b>White:</b>	<b>unity</b>
<b>Red:</b>	<b>the blood of the national heroes</b>

Next time you see a Mexican flag, tell your Cubs the story of the eagle, the snake and the cactus. As they learn the history behind the flags, they'll get a glimpse into the culture and history that the flags represent.

## The Desert Kid

The Desert Kid was out wandering in the desert area that surrounded his home. It was a hot and sweltering summer day. He wanted a drink of water but there was no water to found.

"I'm so thirsty", said the Desert Kid.

The Desert Kid started to look around him for any signs of water. He tried to find a pond or a stream but there was nothing, nothing for miles but sand and a few cactus plants.

"Cactus!" exclaimed the Desert Kid, remembering what his father had told him about how to survive in the desert. "Cactus have water in them!"

The Desert Kid very carefully took out his pocket knife and cut deep into one of the branches of a cactus plant. He saw a cool refreshing liquid inside of it. He slowly and carefully took a few sips. It was so good and so refreshing. He then took a few more sips.

The Desert Kid found his way back home and his father was there waiting for him.

"Father", said the Desert Kid. "I remembered what you told me about surviving in the desert."

"I see", said Father. "So the old water in a cactus trick worked, did it?"

"Oh yes", said the Desert Kid. "I was so thirsty and I couldn't find any water for miles around but there were tons of cactus plants out there."

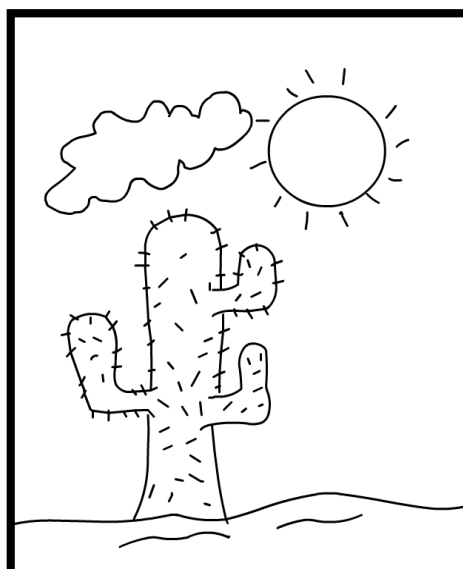
"I am proud of you", said Father. "You remembered exactly what I had told you."

***There is so much to make and do to feel part of Mexico.***

### Craft/Activity:

#### 1. **Handcraft:** Sand Art

Draw a simple picture onto a card (example below from [www.printthistoday.com](http://www.printthistoday.com)), spread a thin layer of glue over one section of the picture. Sprinkle over the 'sand' (recipes below) and when well covered, shake off the excess. Repeat with the next section. You can find many pictures on the internet, alternatively get the Cubs to draw their own pictures.



## **Recipes for Sand Art:**

### **Coloured Sand:**

3 Cups masonry sand  
2 Tablespoons liquid tempera paint

Mix the ingredients and allow to dry, stirring occasionally. It will take about 24 hours to dry. For deeper colours, use more paint. If sand is not available, use salt.

### **Coloured Rock Salt:**

Place food colouring into a bowl of rock salt. Add in rubbing alcohol and let sit about 10 minutes. Drain on towel and use for arts and craft projects.

More ideas: <http://www.wikihow.com/Color-Sand>

## 2. **Handcraft:** Mexican Sombrero



### **You will need:**

- 3 or 4 sheets of newspaper and either two sheets of solid colored gift wrap (same size as the newspaper) OR paint
- masking tape
- scissors
- single hole punch
- wool or string

### **Instructions:**

Stack the sheets of newspaper. If using gift wrap, put the wrap on the top and the bottom of the newspaper with the coloured sides out. Put the newspaper over the child's head. If doing this with a few Cubs, have the child with the biggest head be the model for all the hats. Wrap masking tape around the crown 2 or 3 times. Trim the brim into a circle. Roll the brim up and apply masking tape to hold.

If using paint, paint the hat at this point - a dark colour like black is best as it covers the newsprint. Punch holes all around the brim of the hat. Thread wool or string around to decorate the brim and punch holes on either side of the hat crown. Wrap a piece of string, ribbon or wool around the crown to make it fancy (sort of like a hat band. Put the ends of the wool through the holes on either side of the hat crown and tie loosely under the chin.

***The desert is full of wonderful insects – ants being one of them.***

### **Singing/Play Acting:**

#### 1. **Singing:** Ants go Marching

The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah  
The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah  
The ants go marching one by one,  
The last one stops to chew some gum  
And they all go marching down to the ground  
To get out of the rain, BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The ants go marching two by two,  
The little one stops to tie his shoe

The ants go marching three by three,  
The little one stops to climb a tree

The ants go marching four by four,  
The little one stops to shut the door

The ants go marching five by five,  
The little one stops to take a dive

The ants go marching six by six,  
The little one stops to pick up sticks

The ants go marching seven by seven,  
The little one stops to pray to heaven

The ants go marching eight by eight,  
The little one stops to shut the gate

The ants go marching nine by nine,  
The little one stops to check the time

The ants go marching ten by ten,  
The little one stops to say "THE END"

2. **Playacting:** Who Am I?

*Playacting Module: page 7* – ensure you use pictures that are desert related!

**Advancement covered:**

No advancement has been planned for this program – however, if you need to do any revision, or want to cover anything, adapt to suit!